THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 5879. *Saturday, Oct.* 24, 1840. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer*.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

THERE was another good house here last evening to witness *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and the Opera of *Fra Diavolo.*

A new petite Comedy will be produced, for the first time, at this Theatre, on Thursday next; it is in two acts, and entitled *Fashionable Arrivals.* Madame Vestris and C. Mathews have parts in it.

HAY-MARKET THEATRE.

IT is three-and-thirty years since Morton's Comedy of *Town and Country*, which was revived here last night, was first introduced to the notice of the town. A very good piece is this *Town and Country*, but it might have been a much better one than it is—the great defect in it has been caused by the author's attempts at what was termed in his day, "fine writing." Morton is one of the principal personages in that school, whose doctrine and practice is to lay hold on the passions of the spectators, without always observing the strict boundary that is said to subsist between Comedy and Farce. On the present occasion he has not attended so much to the native impulse of his own genius as to the outcry of critics, and accordingly we do not conceive that *Town and Country* deserves to rank with the best of his Comedies. In his lighter scenes his labour to produce point has too often engendered punning, and in his serious interest, he too frequently pauses to make a moral reflection, and this for the sake of fine writing, which was certainly not his forte. An author who to gain reputation for fine writing, determines to be equally witty in all his characters, must almost necessarily make a perpetual sacrifice of character to point. Thus in the Plays of Congreve, admirably ingenious as they are, the continual endeavour at witty dialogue confounds his characters. The former cast of the Play was as follows: *Plastic*, C. Kemble, *Trot*, Blanchard, *Cosey*, Fawcett, *Rev. Owen Glenroy*, Murray, *Reuben Glenroy*, J. Kemble, *Captain Glenroy*, Brunton, *Hawbuck*, Emery, *Hon. Mrs. Glenroy*, Mrs. Glover, *Rosalie Somers*, Miss Brunton, *Mrs. Trot*, Mrs. Mattocks, and *Mrs. Moreen*, Mrs. Davenport. Last night the cast included W. Lacy, Strickland, Rees, Waldron, Wallack, J. Webster, Oxberry, Miss Charles, Mrs. Stirling, Mrs. Glover, and Mrs. W. Clifford, and never was the piece better received than it was last night. Wallack's *Reuben* was in many respects an admirable performance. W. Lacy played *Plastic* extremely well, but this part is one of the worst ever written, for though it is perpetually active, its activity is always odious, and throughout the whole Play it does not contain a single passage which can excite applause or even pleasure among the audience. The *Trot* of David Rees is an excellent performance, and was received with much applause. J. Webster, as the Captain, exerted himself with great effect. The scene in the gaming house, in which, goaded to despair by his losses,

E. & J. Thomas, Printers, 6, Exeter Street, Strand.

he is about to rid himself of life, when his arm his arrested by his brother *Reuben*, was well acted. Mrs. Stirling's *Rosalie* was a charming performance, and the sprightly *elegante Mrs. Glenroy* was well assumed by Miss Charles. Strickland, Oxberry, and Mrs. Glover, were each excellent in their respective characters, and we have no doubt the Comedy will be frequently played. After the Comedy, the petite Drama of *Cramond Brig* was performed, Mr. Maywood sustaining the character of *Jock Howieson* So faithfully did he portray the Highlander that the audience testified their approbation by continuous applause throughout the piece. J. Webster was exceedingly happy as *King James*. *Sweethearts and Wives* concluded.

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

Dear Mr. Editor.—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town :—

Monday, stroll'd to Madame Tussaud's elegant Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker-st., Portman Sq.—Just added to their unrivalled collection, the full length figure of the lunatic Oxford ; also splendid figures of Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert in his military costume, the group of John Knox, reproving Mary Queen of Scots, consisting of Mary, Elizabeth, Henry VIII, Luther, Calvin, and Knox, in magnificent costumes.

On Tuesday, visit the Diorama, Regent's Park, to see the new and splendid view, *The Shrine of the Nativity at Bethlehem*, painted by M. Renoux, from a sketch made on the spot by David Roberts, Esq., A.R.A. and the view of *The Coronation of Queen Victoria* in Westminster Abbey, by M. Bouton. This delightful Exhibition is open every day from ten till half-past four.

Afterwards visit the Promenades Indiennes—*Catlin's North American Gallery*, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, is now brilliantly illuminated at night, where may be seen his immense and curious collection of Indian Portraits, Landscapes, Costumes, &c. At half-past 8 in the evening, costumes will be exhibited on living figures, and explanations given by Mr. Catlin. Open from 10 till 10.—Ad. 1s.

Wednesday, pay a visit to the Somerset Gallery, 151, Strand, next door to Somerset House, to see a most wonderful exhibition, *The Industrious Fleas*. They dance, ride, drive a four-in-hand, fight, and in fact do everything in first rate style, exciting the admiration of all present. By the bye, this is Signor Bertolotto's exhibition, that he has been exhibiting for the last eight years.

In my way from the Theatre, drop into the *Harmonic Meeting*, held at Evans's Grand Hotel, King Street, Covent Garden,—quite delighted with the excellence of the singing, commences every evening at ten o'clock. When Mrs. P. is out of town, stay a week, and only pay a guinea for bed and breakfast. I'm always to be found on Saturday, at half-past five, at the Convivial Dinner held here.

Thursday pop into the Cosmorama Rooms, 209, Regent Street, to view the new and beautiful views now exhibting here ; they are of the most interesting description, and deserve the patronage they receive.

Called upon Duff & Hodgson, 65, Oxford-street, for the music in *The Greek Boy*,—bought "Gondolier Row," (which is always encored) and "Cupid's Wing," these songs are both sung by Madame Vestris ; there is also a pretty duet, "The happy hour to meet."

"All good *spirits* come to my *Beck*," at his Dr. Johnson's Tavern, Bolt Court, Fleet Street—where you meet excellent company—capital fare at *fair* prices—delightful singing—(commences every evening at a quarter to nine,) cigars, billiards, good beds, and an enticing bill of fare.

Friday, drop into *The Florentine Anatomical Museum*, Margaret Street, Regent Street, to admire the splendid Anatomical Figures of Venus and Adonis, modelled from nature, and as large as life.

There is scarcely an inhabitant of this metropolis who has not heard of "Grimstone's Eye Snuff," and therefore as far as attempting to add to its popularity, it would only be like "gilding refined gold," but I must mention, that since I have called at 39, Broad Street, Bloomsbury, and purchased a 1s. 3d. and 2s, 4d. canister of this herbacious and truly delightful Snuff, it has cured my dimness of sight and head-ache, although all the faculty had failed to effect a cure.

On Saturday, I examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle Work, Leicester Square—just added other beautiful specimens of her art.—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's. &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, (with alterations) Baumont and Fletcher's Comedyof The

Spanish Curate.

TheScenery by theMess.GRIEVE.TheCostumes byMr.HEAD.

Don Henrique, Mr COOPER,
Don Juan.....Mr ANDERSON,
Leandro, Mr CHARLES MATHEWS,
Lopez ..... (the Curate)..... Mr W. FARREN,
Bartolus, (a Lawyer) Mr BARTLEY,
Diego,.....(a Sexton).....Mr KEELEY,
Milanes, Mr HEMMING, Angelo, Mr BRINDAL,
Miguel, MrWIGAN, Ascanio, MissCOOPER,
The Assistant, or Judge.....Mr W.H.PAYNE,
Officer of the Court, Mr S. SMITH,
Old Man..Mr AYLIFFE, Servant..Mr Collett
Violante,(Wife to DonHenrique) MrsBROUGHAM,
Amaranta,(Ward of Bartolus)MadameVESTRIS,
In which she will introduce **'Welcome Sweet Liberty.'**
Jacintha, MrsW. WEST,
Egla,.. ...(a Moorish Servant).....Miss LANE.

The Interval between the Comedy and the Afterpiece will be occupied by

A COMIC SCENE

Between Mr C. MATHEWS and Mr KEELEY,

ENTITLED

Two in the Morning.

After which, (*16th Time*) a New Musical Drama, in Two Acts, entitled

The Greek Boy.

Hylas, Madame VESTRIS,
In which she will sing, **'Cupid'sWing,'& 'GondolierRow'**
Doge of Venice ..... Mr S. JONES,
Count Malveggio, Mr DIDDEAR,
Visconti, MrWIGAN, Vivaldi, Mr AYLIFFE,
Silvio, Mr KEELEY,
Claudio, Mr BINGE, Andrea, Mr GRANBY,
Bernardo, Mr F. MATTHEWS,
Basillo, MrW.H.PAYNE, Marcas, MrC.J.SMITH,
Benedetta, Miss COOPER,
Costanza, MissA.TAYLOR, Marcella, MissLANE,
InActI. **AN INCIDENTAL BALLET,**
IN WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED
A Pas de Deux..... by Master and Miss Marshall,
And a Pas de Deux..byMrGilbert & MissBallin,
The whole of the Music of the above Musical Drama is published by Messrs. Hodgson and Duff, Oxford Street.

On Monday, The Merry Wives of Windsor, and Fra Diavolo.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, a Musical Entertainment, entitled The

Concerts d'Hiver.

THE ORCHESTRA

IS COMPOSED of UPWARDS of 90 PERFORMERS,

Conductor, Mons. MUSARD,

Solo Performers.—Mess. DANTONET, PROSPERE, DE LOFFRE PILET, MULLER, MULLER, Jun. WILLENT-BORDOGNI, Mess. BARRET, COLLINET, HILL, FRISCH, CASE, HOWELL, KOENIG, HANCOCK, JARRET, & ELIASON. *Leader* M. Nadaud.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

Overture .. La Muette de Portici .. Auber

Quadrille .. Irlandais .. Musard

Overture .. La Dame Blanche .. Boieldieu

Locrezia Borgia, M.S. Quadrille, (6th time) Musard

FIRST GRAND FANTASIA from MEYERBEER's Opera, Les Huguenots, Oboe Solo, **Mons. BARRET.** Solo, Cornet a Piston, **Herr KOENIG.** arranged by Musard

Romance from Halevy's Opera, Guido et Ginevra, Cornet a Piston Solo, **Herr KOENIG.** Arranged by MUSARD.

Overture .. Der Freyschutz .. C.M. Von Weber

PART II.

Overture Guillaume Tell, ... Rossini

Cent-Suisse, Quadrille, M.S. (6th Time) Musard

Solo, Cornet a Pistons, Herr KOENIG. Solo, Trombone, Monsieur DANTONET.

Fantasia, Violoncello, **Mons. PILET.**

Quatres Heures, Quadrille, with Variations for the Flageolet, by **M. COLLINET,** Musard

Serenades Espagnoles, (6th Time) ar. by Musard

Valses .. Brussler Spitzen .. Strauss

Galop, .. Le Sabbat .. (6th Time) .. Mussrd

‡ *Messrs. COCKS & Co., Music Sellers in ordinary to her most gracious Majesty, 20, Princes Street, Hanover Square, have been chosen by Messrs. Strauss, Lanner, Labitzky, and Musard, sole publishers of all their new works.*

PRICES OF ADMISSION.

To the Promenade 1s. Dress Circle 2s. 6d. Upper Boxes, 1s. 6d.

Doors Open at Half-past Seven o' Clock, to commence at Eight precisely.

Printed and Published, every Morning, by E. & J. Thomas, 6, Exeter Street, Strand.—All Letters to be post paid—Printing in General.